

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 OMB-01

IO-13 CU-02 L-03 SS-15 H-01 ISO-00 /079 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2957

FINO ALL EC CAPITALS 3086

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 01212

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, CSCE, OREP (OLIVER, R. SPENCER)

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION VIEWS ON CSCE BASKET 2

REF: EC BRUSSELS 895

1. DURING FEBRUARY 7 MEETING WITH STAFFDEL OLIVER, EC COMMISSION EXTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICIAL LOUIS KAWAN MADE STRONG PITCH FOR ACTIVE US INVOLVEMENT IN BASKET 2 DISCUSSIONS DURING BELGRADE CONFERENCE. KAWAN, WHO REPRESENTED THE EC COMMISSION THROUGHOUT THE GENEVA PHASE OF CSCE NEGOTIATIONS, SINGLED OUT IMPROVED ACCESS FOR BUSINESSMEN AND FREER EXCHANGE OF COMMERCIAL INFORMATION AS TWO AREAS WHERE PROGRESS COULD BE ACHIEVED. HE GENTLY CRITICIZED THE US FOR HAVING PAID TOO LITTLE ATTENTION TO BASKET 2 ISSUES DURING THE 1973-75 GENEVA TALKS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE US WOULD PARTICIPATE MORE FORCEFULLY IN BELGRADE DISCUSSIONS OF BASKET 2 IMPLEMENTATION. IN MORE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF BASKET 2 PHILOSOPHY, KAWAN POINTED OUT THAT THE EC HAD LONG FAVORED INTRODUCING CONCEPT OF RECIPROCITY INTO BASKET 2 DEBATE. HE PROMISED TO PROVIDE STAFFDEL
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COPY OF AN EC COMMISSION PAPER ON THAT SUBJECT.

2. KAWAN SAID HE HAD GROWING IMPRESSION SOVIETS WOULD NOT BE PUSHING BREZHNEV PROPOSALS FOR PAN-EUROPEAN CONFERENCES ON ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION, AND THE ENVIRONMENT AS ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AT BELGRADE. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE BRUSSELS-BASED EC WORKING GROUP ON

BASKET 2 HAD AGREED ON A NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE PROPOSALS AND HAD FURTHER TAKEN THE POSITION THAT, IF FOR OVERRIDING POLITICAL REASONS THE WEST WERE TO AGREE TO ANY OF THE PROPOSALS, DISCUSSION SHOULD BE CONFINED TO THE ECE FORUM (REFTEL). THE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD LAST WEEK BY ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STANOVNIK FOR CONFERENCES UNDER ECE AUSPICES ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES (INCLUDING THOSE SUGGESTED BY BREZHNEV) COULD BE EXPLOITED BY THE WEST AS A MEANS OF SIDE-TRACKING THE SOVIET PROPOSALS.

3. KAWAN RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THE SOVIETS MIGHT PROPOSE AT BELGRADE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EAST-WEST FREE TRADE AREAS ALONG LINES OF RECENT FINNISH FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH SEVERAL EASTERN BLOC STATES, ADDING HE WAS NOT CERTAIN HOW SUCH AN APPROACH MIGHT BEST BE COUNTERED.

4. KAWAN EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH STAFFDEL AND SUGGESTED ANOTHER MEETING, AFTER POSITIONS FOR BELGRADE HAD BEEN MORE THAN TENTATIVELY FORMULATED. HE SUGGESTED LATE MARCH OR EARLY TO MID-APRIL EITHER IN BRUSSELS OR IN GENEVA AFTER CONVENING OF APRIL 19 ECE PLENARY. HINTON

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